

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Previously Amended) A device for protecting a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) during an over voltage condition wherein a first mode of protection comprises:

5 a low pass filter circuit having a capacitor coupled in series with the solenoid coil of the GFCI, said low pass filter connected across the power inputs of the GFCI to pass low frequency voltage signals to the GFCI circuit while blocking high frequency signals.

Claim 2. (Previously amended) The device of claim 1 having a second mode of protection comprising: a surge protector coupled in parallel with the capacitor of the low

10 pass filter.

Claim 3. (Previously amended) The device of claim 2, wherein the surge protector coupled in parallel with the capacitor comprises a metal oxide varistor (MOV) to shunt a moderate over voltage around the capacitor.

Claim 4-6. (Cancelled)

15 Claim 7. (Previously amended) The device of claim 3 having a third mode of protection comprising:

an over voltage prevention circuit coupled between the phase and neutral conductors of the GFCI to shunt a severe over voltage between the phase and neutral conductors.

Claims 8-20. (Cancelled)

20 Claim 21. (Previously added) The device of claim 7 wherein the over voltage prevention circuit comprises a spark gap device coupled between the phase and neutral conductors.

Claim 22. (Previously added) The device of claim 21 wherein the spark gap device is coupled between the phase and neutral conductors on the line side of the GFCI.

Claim 23. (Previously added) The device of claim 22 wherein the spark gap device is coupled in parallel with the low pass filter.

Claim 24. (Previously added) The device of claim 7 wherein the over voltage prevention circuit comprises a gas tube.

5 Claim 25. (Previously added) The device of claim 24 wherein the gas tube is coupled in parallel with the low pass filter.

Claim 26. (Previously added) The device of claim 7 wherein the over voltage prevention circuit comprises a carbon-block protector.

10 Claim 27. (Previously added) A device for protecting a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) from harmful power conditions comprising:
a surge protector connected between phase and neutral line conductors of the GFCI;
and

15 a low pass filter connected in parallel with the surge protector, said low pass filter comprises a zener diode coupled in series with the solenoid coil of the ground fault circuit interrupter.

Claim 28. (Previously added) The device of claim 27 wherein the surge protector is a metal oxide varistor.

Claim 29. (cancelled)

20 Claim 30. (Re-presented – formerly dependent claim 8) The device of claim 22, wherein, during an over voltage condition, the spark gap device limits the voltage applied to the surge protection component, and the low pass filter limits the current applied to the surge protection component.

Claim 31. (Previously added) A method of protecting a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) from harmful power conditions on phase and neutral line conductors, comprising the step of:

- connecting a capacitor in series with the solenoid coil of the GFCI to form a low pass filter coupled across the line conductors.
- 5

Claim 32. (Previously added) The method of claim 30 further comprising the step of connecting a metal oxide varistor across the capacitor.

Claim 33. (Previously added) The method of claim 31 further comprising the step of connecting a spark gap device across the phase and neutral conductors.